

# SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

## MISSOURI CAREER GRADES

### JANUARY 2025



Career Grades are a tool to help make comparisons between occupations. Each occupation is assigned a letter grade from A+ to F based on its outlook over the next decade. Grades are based on a combination of projected total job openings, projected percent growth, and current average wages. Occupations with a grade of A or A+ have above average results in at least two of the three variables, while occupations with a grade of B or B+ have above average results in at least one of the three variables.

The South Central region is projected to have nearly 7,500 annual job openings through 2032. The vast majority (79%) of these openings are in A, B, and C grade occupations. In general, higher graded occupations have higher wages and growth rates. Grade A occupations earn an average wage that is 63 percent higher than the average wage for all occupations in the region in 2023 (\$45,616).

#### Annual Job Openings and Wages by Career Grades



**Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations**

Projected to have the most annual total job openings

**over 900**

**Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations**

Most grade A and B annual openings

**over 570**

**Building Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations**

Grade A and B Jobs Concentration

**90%**

#### Top Outlook Occupation Groups

Major Occupation Group	Total Openings	A & B Openings	A & B Concentration
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	950	574	60%
Healthcare Support Occupations	911	714	78%
Sales and Related Occupations	794	266	34%
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	774	610	79%
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	769	238	31%
Production Occupations	605	37	6%
Management Occupations	376	254	68%
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	335	164	49%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	321	227	71%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	316	235	74%
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	250	224	90%
Construction and Extraction Occupations	208	147	71%
Personal Care and Service Occupations	190	17	9%
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	180	126	70%
Protective Service Occupations	131	45	34%

## South Central Region Top Grade Jobs

### **Now**

Typically requires short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2022-2032 Growth Rate	Average Wages
B+	Home Health and Personal Care Aides 🔥	671	16.7%	\$29,933
B+	Stockers and Order Fillers 🔥	235	12.4%	\$33,668
B	Retail Salespersons 🔥	193	6.4%	\$33,581
B	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand 🔥	170	-1.2%	\$33,079
B	Waiters and Waitresses	163	-1.1%	\$35,459
B	Fast Food and Counter Workers 🔥	125	2.0%	\$28,370
B	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners 🔥	99	-1.8%	\$31,634
B	Cooks, Institution and Cafeteria	91	1.0%	\$29,698
B	Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners 🔥	90	-1.6%	\$28,401
B	Customer Service Representatives 🔥	81	-5.1%	\$38,683

### **Next**

Typically requires non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2022-2032 Growth Rate	Average Wages
A	Cooks, Restaurant	134	23.1%	\$31,332
B	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers 🔥	109	-4.1%	\$49,708
B+	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General 🔥	82	3.6%	\$43,019
B	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers 🔥	61	-6.6%	\$42,817
A	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	55	30.7%	\$46,476
B	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	54	-2.7%	\$39,498
B	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics 🔥	43	-1.0%	\$42,265
B	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses 🔥	42	5.6%	\$52,345
B	First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	37	-5.3%	\$60,627
B	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	36	-0.2%	\$48,569

### **Later**

Typically requires a bachelor's degree or higher

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2022-2032 Growth Rate	Average Wages
A	General and Operations Managers 🔥	160	6.0%	\$78,562
A+	Registered Nurses 🔥	100	12.0%	\$71,988
B	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	71	-7.7%	\$47,086
B	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	47	-8.2%	\$57,591
B	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term	46	-5.1%	\$42,301
A	Accountants and Auditors	33	18.4%	\$65,418
A+	Medical and Health Services Managers 🔥	27	34.1%	\$105,597
B+	Human Resources Specialists	22	7.5%	\$57,020
B+	Business Operations Specialists, All Other	18	10.8%	\$72,690
A+	Nurse Practitioners 🔥	18	44.0%	\$111,065

 Flame icon indicates occupations with the top 20 online job postings in 2023 within NNL (Now, Next, Later) categories.

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program. Occupational projections developed by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC). Lightcast™. Job opening and growth rate data is based on sum of published employment.

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